Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

John R. Kasich, Governor
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor
Craig W. Butler, Director

August 3, 2016
Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact
Akron Tallmadge Avenue Sanitary Sewer Lining
WPCLF# CS390095-0129

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a wastewater treatment project in your area which the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency intends to finance through its Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) below-market interest rate revolving loan program. The LER describes the project, its costs, and expected environmental benefits. Making available this LER fulfills Ohio EPA's environmental review and public notice requirements for this loan program.

Ohio EPA analyzes environmental effects of proposed projects as part of its WPCLF program review and approval process. We have concluded that the proposed project should not result in significant adverse environmental impacts. This project's relatively narrow scope and lack of environmental impacts qualifies it for the LER rather than a more comprehensive Environmental Assessment. More information can be obtained by calling or writing the person named at the end of the document.

Loan award will proceed without further environmental review or public comment unless new information shows that environmental conditions of the proposed project have changed significantly.

Sincerely,

Jerry Rouch

Jerry Rouch, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance
Office of Financial Assistance

JR/DH

attachment

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LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

A. Project Identification

Project Name: Akron Tallmadge Avenue Sanitary Sewer Lining

WPCLF# CS390095-0129

Address: Nick Meyer
Akron Engineering Bureau
Environmental Division
166 South High Street
Akron, OH 44308

B. History and Existing Conditions

East Tallmadge Avenue in east central Akron, Ohio has combined sewers between Main Street and Columbia Avenue and separate sanitary and storm sewers between Columbia Avenue and State Route 8. Spans of all the pipes are in poor condition, causing two collapses in 2014 and 2015 on the 36" combined sewer near Elma Street. Structural weakness could cause other sewer collapses and release of sewage to the environment. Lining the pipes would help correct the identified structural weaknesses and prevent further damage.

C. Project Description

To rehabilitate sewers with a history of failure causing collapse of overlying pavement, Akron will line with cured-in-place-pipe approximately 3,775 linear feet sanitary sewer and combined sewer beneath East Tallmadge Avenue (Figure 1).

Cured-in-place-pipe (CIPP) involves inserting a fabric tube impregnated with a thermosetting resin into a sewer. The lining is typically inserted via existing manholes, installed using water pressure, and cured by circulating hot water through the pipe. After the liner is intact, a robot cutter opens the existing lateral connection holes to allow wastewater to enter the sewer.

This seamless pipe prevents water from leaking in or out, restores structural integrity, and eliminates joints that can weaken and allow root intrusion. CIPP may increase flow capacity because the new lining is much smoother than aged clay, brick, or concrete surface it covers. CIPP rehabilitation is a "trenchless technology" because the work is typically completed through existing manholes with minimal or no excavation required and minimal traffic disruption.

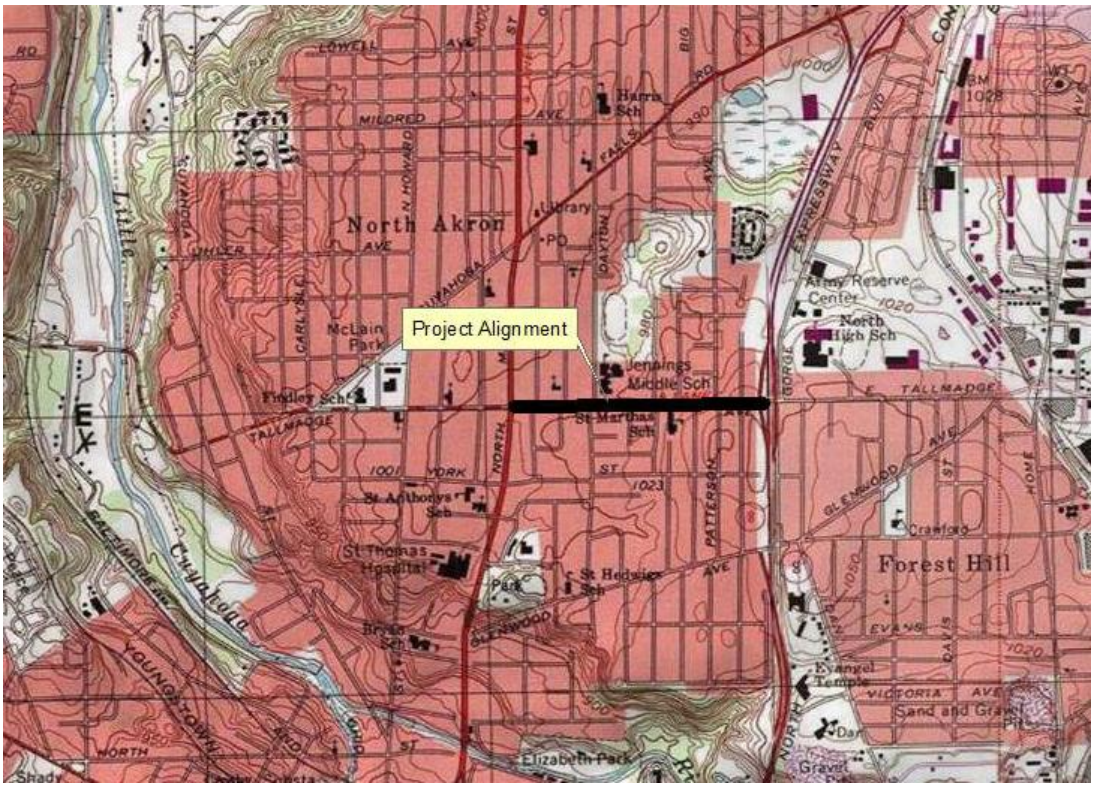

Figure 1 – Project Location

D. Estimated Project Costs

Akron will combine $615,000 of local funds with approximately $1,460,000 from the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) at the standard interest rate (now 1.40% for the requested 30-year extended term financing; rates are set monthly and may change for a later loan award). During the 30-year loan period, Akron will save approximately $346,000 by using WPCLF dollars at this rate, compared to the market rate of 2.70%.

E. Project Schedule

Assuming loan award in August 2016, the one-month construction project will be complete before the end of 2016.

F. Public Notification

Akron issued a news release in February 2016 listing all WPCLF projects anticipated for the year, including this project, and requested public comment. No comments were received. Ohio EPA is posting this Limited Environmental Review (LER) and Finding of No Significant Impact on its web page and will make a copy available upon request. Information supporting the LER is available from the project contact named below.

G. Conclusion

The proposed sewer lining is minor rehabilitation of existing facilities that qualifies for a LER and meets the following additional criteria for a LER:

It has no significant environmental effect and no effect on high value environmental resources and does not require extensive specific impact mitigation – Sewer lining is installed through manholes, typically requires no excavation, and avoids environmental disturbance. Pre-notification of anticipated odors and use of standard traffic maintenance methods will minimize impacts in the construction area.

It is cost effective and not controversial – Infrastructure rehabilitation such as pipe lining typically costs less than replacement to restore full function. Pipe lining also has less environmental disturbance than alternatives requiring excavation. Akron has instituted multi-year sewer rate increases to pay for this and other sewer improvement projects. The typical residential annual sewer bill in the Akron service area is $1,150, which is approximately 2.64% of local median household income (adjusted MHI; $43,563). This cost is higher than the Ohio average residential sewer bill of $626, which is 1.3% of state MHI ($48,081). By using the WPCLF low-interest financing for this project, Akron has minimized the cost and the economic impact on residents and the local economy.

Public notification of this project resulted in no comments. Ohio EPA is unaware of controversy about or opposition to this project.

It does not create a new, or relocate an existing, discharge to surface or ground waters, nor will it result in substantial increases in the volume of discharge or the loading of pollutants from an existing source or from new facilities to receiving waters, nor provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population – This project merely rehabilitates existing sanitary sewer and combined sewer pipes and has no other effect on the sewer system or treatment system.

The planning activities for the project have identified no potentially significant adverse impacts. The project is expected to have no significant short-term or long-term adverse impacts on the quality of the human environment or on sensitive resources (floodplains, wetlands, prime or unique agricultural lands, aquifer recharge zones, archaeologically or historically significant sites, or threatened or endangered species).

H. For more information, please contact:

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